
Friendly Russia by Denis Garstin

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omy, as a natural consequence, assisted by the oppressive action of the government, was converted into a political revolutionary struggle. A vivid description, quoted from one of the students, is given of the demonstration in 1901 of Moscow University against the famous Temporary Rules which forced the students into the army. At the present time, according to Madame Jarintzoff's account, the old established universities have come so entirely under governmental control that the best teachers have left and the student body has been entirely changed. That group which furnished the idealists and revolutionists of the former period have gone into private schools and "the dandies, sportsmen, and 'academists' seem to be left alone in the universities proper."

Other chapters deal with the Russian clergy, the monastic prisons, the Cossacks, and the agents provocateurs. Madame Jarintzoff tells again the legend of the latter days of Alexander I and describes the assassination of Alexander II.

Friendly Russia. By DENIS GARSTIN. London: T. Fisher Unwin. 1915. Pp. 248.

Mr. Garstin's book is a charming portrayal of the friendly side of Russian life which has nothing to do with that "wilderness of wolves, knouts, serfdom, and cruelty" which the name Russia is rather too apt to suggest to our minds. The land of the revolutionists seems far away from this "pleasant easy life among pleasant easy people," whose favorite expression is "Nitchevo," "never mind."

At the present time, the last chapters are of especial interest, conveying the author's impressions of Russia in war time. The declaration of war awakened an enthusiasm and a feeling of unity such as Russia has not known of late years. To the peasants the war is a Holy War and one which has awakened all their Pan-Slavic hopes and aspirations. An interesting picture is that of the attack on the German embassy in Petrograd and another is the impression of efficiency conveyed to this onlooker by the Russian mobilization, an efficiency unexpected by those who knew Russia in the days of the Russo-Japanese War.